

SERVICE OF WORSHIP

SOUNDING THE CHURCH BELL

PRELUDE

Joseph Cough, Jr.

LIGHTING THE CANDLES

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP Adapted from *Our Work for Social Justice* by Elizabeth Nguyen (Read responsively)

As spiritual people, our journey is to transform the big and the small, to transform ourselves, and to transform the world. No one is outside of the circle of God's love, and no one is disposable.

Response: **"No one is outside of the circle of love, and no one is disposable."**

We stubbornly seek out the spark of the divine in each other, no matter what. The interdependence of the world means none of us is truly free until we are all free, and our thriving is bound up in the earth's thriving.

Response: **"None of us is truly free until we are all free."**

We are each always on a path of learning, healing, and growing. There is no perfection to be strived for on this path, and we are each held by and loved by our community as we go.

Response: **"There is no perfection. I am loved by my community, and we will hold one another."**

OPENING HYMN *Christian, Rise and Act Your Creed* #537

INVOKING THE HOLY *Ubi Caritas*

Where charity and love are, God is there.
Love of Christ has gathered us into one.
Let us rejoice in Him and be glad.
We will have fear, and let us love the living God.
And let us love each other sincerely from the heart.
Where charity and love are, God is there.

At the same time, then, when we were gathered together as one:
Lest we be divided in mind, let us beware.
Let evil impulses stop, let controversy cease.
And in the midst of us be Christ our God.
Where charity and love are, God is there.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *When Giving Is All We Have* by Alberto Ríos

One river gives
Its journey to the next.

We give because someone gave to us.
We give because nobody gave to us.

We give because giving has changed us.
We give because giving could have changed us.

We have been better for it,
We have been wounded by it—

Giving has many faces: It is loud and quiet,
Big, though small, diamond in wood-nails.

Its story is old, the plot worn and the pages too,
But we read this book, anyway, over and again:

Giving is, first and every time, hand to hand,
Mine to yours, yours to mine.

You gave me blue and I gave you yellow.
Together we are simple green. You gave me

What you did not have, and I gave you
What I had to give—together, we made

Something greater from the difference.

Silent personal confession

WORDS OF ASSURANCE *Paraphrased from Matthew 6:25-34*

Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Which of you by worrying can add a single hour to your span of life?

Your heavenly Father knows what you need.
Seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all things will be given to you as well.

So do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own. Today's trouble is enough for today.

CHILDREN'S CELEBRATION *Mr. Rogers' Neighbors*

PASSING THE PEACE

*GLORIA PATRI

*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Ghost
as it was in the beginning, it is now,
and ever shall be; world without end. Amen, amen.*

ANTHEM *Won't You Let Me Be Your Servant?* #539

SCRIPTURE/SACRED TEXT *Romans 12: 4-14*

SERMON *We Are the Hands of God* guest speaker Air Rhodes

HYMN OF REFLECTION *Precious Lord, Take My Hand* #472

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE *Lord's Prayer*

INVITATION TO GENEROSITY

THE MORNING OFFERING

*Doxology

*Praise God from who all blessings flow
Praise God, all creatures here below,
Praise God for all that love has done,
Creator, Christ, and Spirit one.*

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*HYMN OF SENDING *What a Covenant* #471

*BENEDICTION *Love Holds You* by Carrie Holley-Hurt

Love holds you.

Love bears witness to all your inherent dignity and worthiness.

It witnesses how you try, succeed, and fail—and it does not flinch.

Love will not let go.

Love holds all of you.

POSTLUDE

Pianist Joseph Cough, Jr.

**Please stand if you are able*

We remember in our prayers: Family of Cynthia Hazelton, Ian Michaud, Grace and Susan Greene, Don Gage, George Greene, the family of Sammy Soule, Tom Boudin, Margaret Ellsworth, Rose Young, Ron Leeman, Joe Dee, Betancourt family, and our neighbors at the Edgecomb Green.

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Edgecomb Community Church

United Church of Christ

*"To bring together our communities in spirituality and loving
service to humankind."*



January 12, 2025

First Sunday after Epiphany

"God is still speaking"



An Open and Affirming Congregation

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